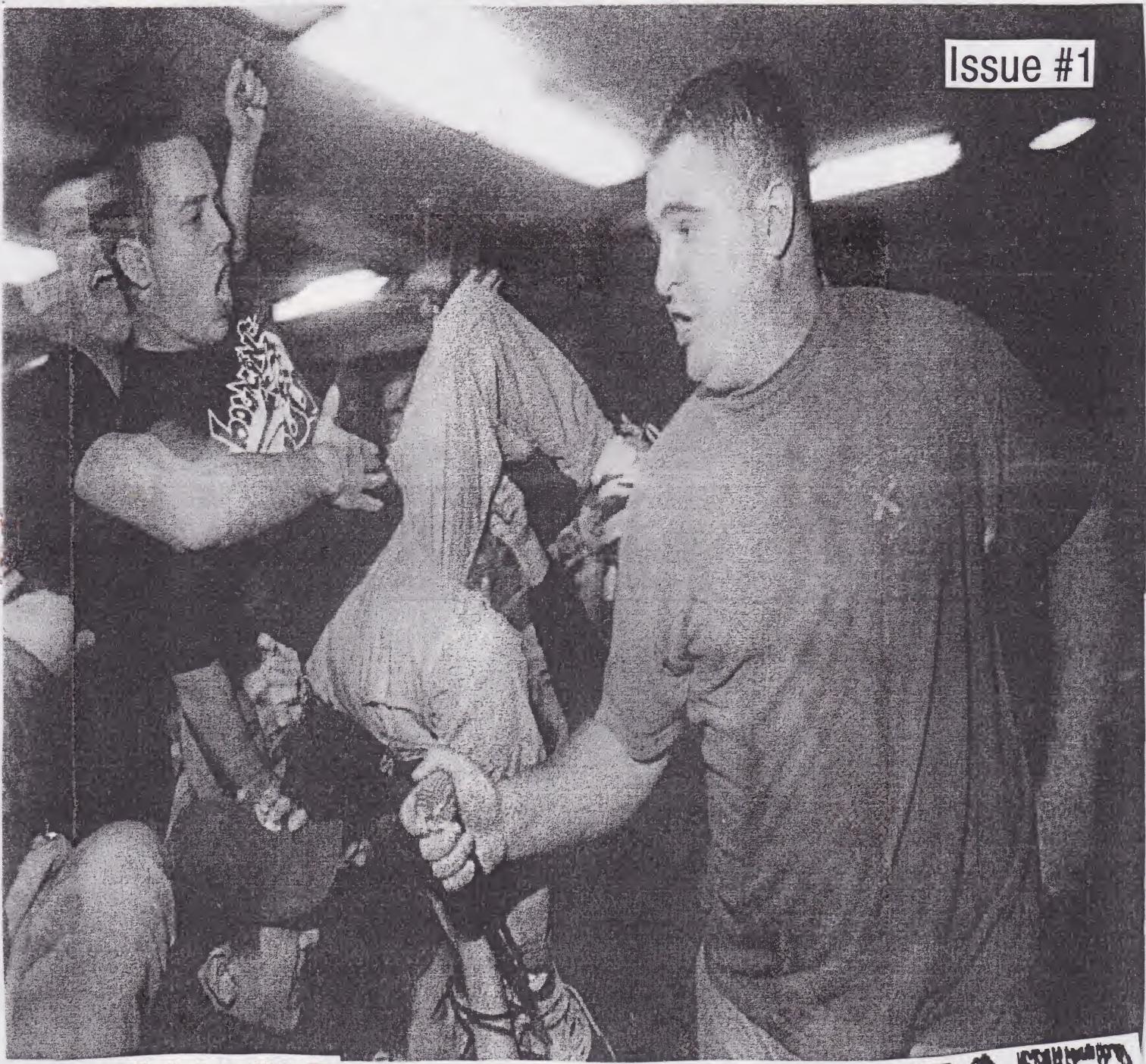


# FINISH LINE FANZINE



Issue #1

AUTOMATIC FLOORPUNCH HANDS TIED

PLUS:

PICTURES

FLYERS

NEWS

REVIEWS

WRITINGS

AND MORE

# FINISH LINE FANZINE

RD 4 Box 4865

East Stroudsburg, PA

18301

USA

## Playlist:

7 Seconds : The Crew

Bold : Looking Back

Brotherhood : As Thick As Blood

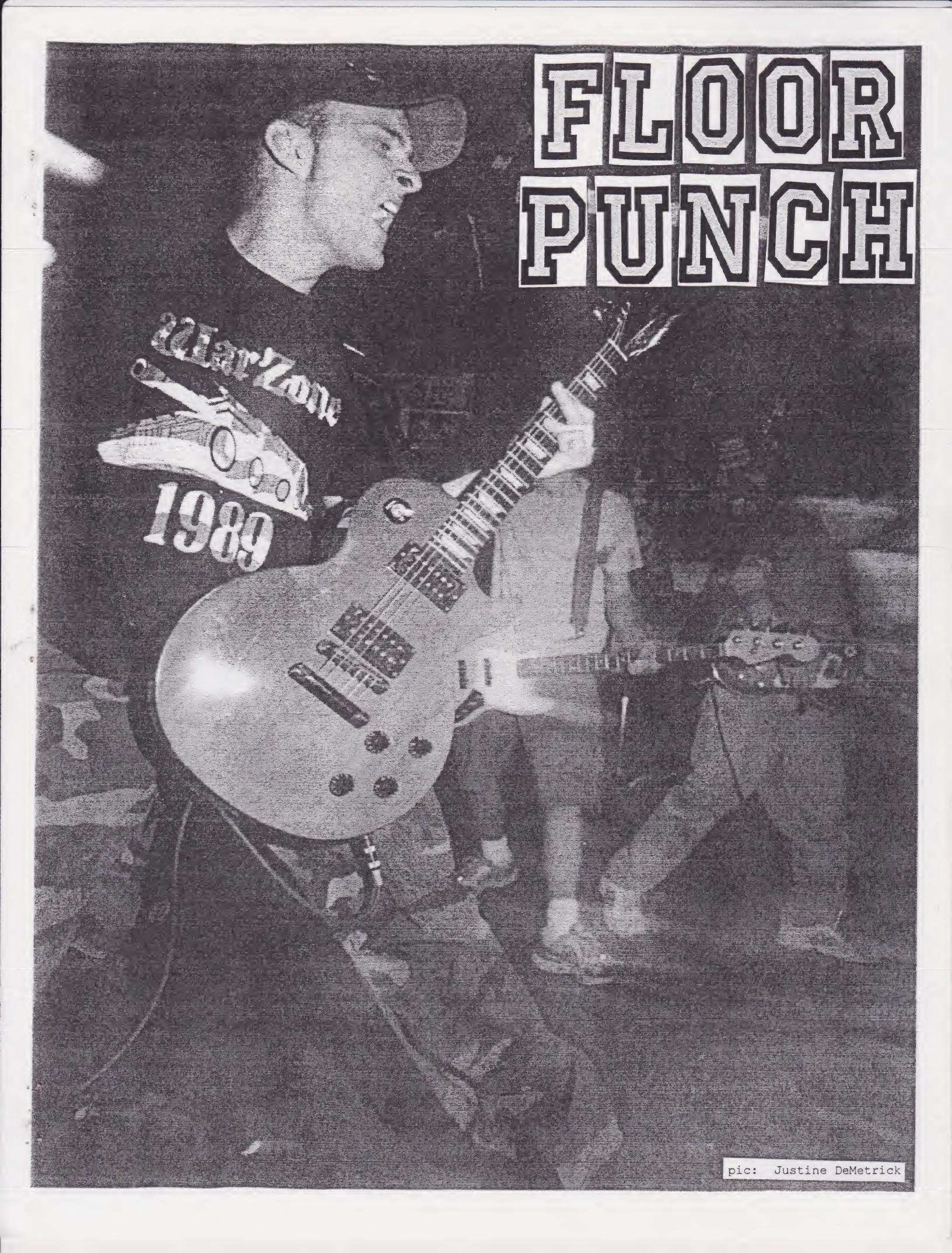
Fastbreak : Fast Cars, Fast Women

In My Eyes : The Difference Between

Kid Dynamite : 6 Songs With Jay Singing

Shelter : No Compromise

Underdog : Demos



# FLOOR PUNCH

pic: Justine DeMetrick

Finish Line Fanzine :  
Brian Meryweather

PICTURES : Any pictures not credited in the corner were taken by me. All pictures by Justine DeMetrick are copywritten. Thanks to everyone who let me have pictures. I'm always looking for photos for future issues so get in touch if you have some lying around.

FLYERS : If you have a stack of cool flyers lying around, let me know... I might be interested in sending a few bucks for some photocopied flyers, or we could trade flyers.

VIDEOS : I'm really into trading HC videos for other HC videos. I have about 150 shows in my collection right now and I'm always looking to pick up more. I have a good variety of shows from the earley 80's to now. Either email me at plan13@ptd.net or send me a stamp for a current list of videos.

PARTING SHOT : I play bass with a couple of friends in a band called Parting Shot. We have a demo out now, for more information, either contact me or check out our homepage at <http://impact.xxedge.com/PS/>.

FLF #2? : I'm hoping to have another issue of this out. With school starting in a few weeks, I will have a little trouble finding time to get it done, but hopefully I'll have enough spare time. Possible interviews for #2 are with In My Eyes, Fastbreak, Kid Dynamite and/or Five Star, but who knows what will happen between now and then.

Cover pic of Floorpunch: Justine DeMetrick

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22/150

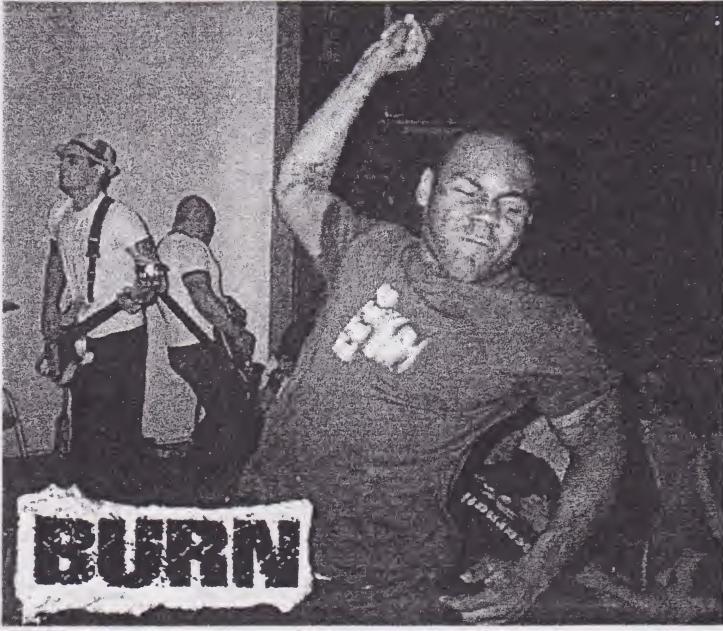
# IN MY EYES

**THE WAY IT WAS LEFT**

The Way it Was Left  
I tell you what this  
printed me in a corner / And I'm sick of dealing  
/ You don't know how to earn take more,  
control that I have / It's going to be, something I  
know how to earn take more / And someone has to earn take  
control / You might learn  
And someone has to earn take more / And someone has to earn take  
control before a fist / Letting  
me and before a fist / Letting

IME pics: Pete Russo

# NEWS



Burn has been playing shows here and there. It started out as a reunion weekend, but now they usually play a show or two a month. There was supposed to be some kind of live cd coming out that was recorded in CT but I haven't heard anything on that one in a while.

Speaking of reunions, Gorilla Biscuits played a three song reunion at CBGB's last October at the second Ray Beez benefit. The Cro-Mags played a full set reunion and Straight Ahead also played a three song reunion in NYC last March. The show was set up by John Joseph and was to raise money for his NYC soup kitchen. Underdog should be playing a reunion show in Asbury Park, NJ this summer. I'm pretty sure that it's going down so be on the lookout for that. It is also rumored that they will do a full tour. Go-Kart records is also going to be putting out a Underdog discography. I also heard there is going to be a show with Underdog, AF, Cro-Mags, and Burn in NYC so keep your eyes peeled.

Better Than A Thousand released their new cd "Value Driven" a little while back. It was put out by themselves this time, not by Revelation. There is also a 7" that was released in Germany that has a song not on the cd plus two that are already, that 7" is called "Self Worth". I also saw this 7" pressed on a label out of Japan. BTAT was recently kicked out of Japan because of some flaws in their VISA's. No big deal though, they have some more time to rest up before the Rev Tour and will be heading back afterwards.

Shelter are supposedly going to be breaking up after they release their next album, which will still be a while since Ray is touring with Better Than A Thousand and Shelter likes to spend a couple months in the studio. Hopefully Porcell will have a new band in the works afterwards.

The debut In My Eyes LP, "The Difference Between", is out on Revelation Records as you read this. The infamous Pushead himself asked In My Eyes to do the artwork for the album. If you haven't picked up the album: do it, if you haven't seen them live: do it.

In related news, Revelation Records recently sent out Better Than A Thousand, Battery, In My Eyes, and Speak 714 for tour this summer. The tour runs almost a month and goes from the east cost to the west. I had the chance to see Speak 714 twice in May and they were not as good as I expected. I think a major reason for that was Joe Foster leaving the band. Another factor could have been that there was no crowd reaction.

That same weekend I had the chance to see Automatic who made the trip from Louisville, KY. These guys were great live, but also got no crowd reaction. They have a new 5 song ep/9 song LP coming out on My War Records this summer. Automatic should be doing a two week tour this summer, maybe in support of it?



Fastbreak has a new cd out called "Fast Cars, Fast Women" on Big Wheel and it is great. Much more developed song writing and structure. This could be in part to Niel St. Clair from In My Eyes on guitar. Fastbreak and Ten Yard Fight are going to hook up for a tour this summer so check them out. Pat, who sings for Fastbreak, is going to be playing guitar in a new band as Jessie who played bass in Follow Through will sing. Follow Through is no more.

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

Matt Warkne is singing for a new band called One Sided War from NYC. Patrick Tracey, formally of Citizens Arrest also plays drums. They have an ep coming out on Ambassador Records in July which should be worth checking out. I heard a sound clip and it's pretty rockin... be on the lookout.

Five Star is a new band coming out of the Garden State with Straight Ed, from Hands Tied, on the mic, Anthony, from Saves The Day, on guitar, and Sean and Pat, both from the first Hands Tied line-up, on bass and guitar respectively. They were going to jump on after In My Eyes set at the Rev tour at the Melody in New Jersey to play one song, but the Melody was on a tight schedule so it did not happen. Ed did let me have a listen to 2 of their songs and it's very good stuff. The music is very much influenced from CIV's first disc with the vocals of a high pitched CIV or Pat Dubar, rockin' stuff.

This rases the question of what is going on with Hands Tied. Well, they have broken up. After Dan left the band they seemed to just fall off of the map and moved on to other projects. They had a few new songs ready to be put on a 7" called "Gagged and Bound" but it was never recorded.

Another re-issue type deal is a Wide Awake discography. It should have everything they ever did along with some other unreleased goodies. It should be out on Smorgasbord records but I'm not too sure when. Another topic in the rumor bin is Wide Awake playing some east coast shows when this comes out. Remember, there was a big buzz of WA doing a reunion in CT a couple months back with Up Front, but supposedly, the drummer could not make the flight from Cali.

Some Records recently released the Beyond "No Longer At Ease" LP in combination with their '88 "Dew It" demo, all remastered on one cd. Pick it up now if you haven't.

the

judas

factor



Rob Fish is singing in a new band called The Judas Factor. Also in the band is Chris Zusi, from Floarpunch, on guitar, Justin Brannan, from Indecision, on guitar, Little Dave on bass, and I'm not sure who plays drums. They are being compared to early Resurrection. They have a 7"/cd out on Wreck-Age Records.

Another new band I really like is Kid Dynamite. Their demo is out now. Dan Yemin and Dave Wagenschutz, from Lifetime, are in this band, I think they sound like a faster version of Lifetime, a lot of people say GB, but I don't really see it. Regardless, it's a great demo.

Agnostic Front has a new disc out on Epitaph. I haven't had a listen yet, but it is said to be the "Victim In Pain" for the 90's.

Eric Ozzene from Unit Pride and Redemption 87 is fronting a new band called The Nerve Agents. They are said to have the same hardcore, borderline punk style as Redemption. They may play some stops on the west coast portion of the Revelation Records Summer Tour. I don't really know what they have planned as far as recording, I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Redemption 87 are finally going to release their lost LP "All Guns Poolside". The record was recorded shortly before they broke up and it's some of their best stuff. Red87 should also be playing a show/shows when it comes out which should be pretty cool even though I'll never make it to them...

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

By The Grace Of God...



pic: Christina Dong

Floorpunch have recorded for their new LP which and it the new stuff sounds really good. I have a very rough copy of the first recording, as they recorded it twice for some reason. A lot of controversy has been surrounding FP, Porter gave Duncan Barlow, from By The Grace Of God, a black eye supposedly because he called Floorpunch nazis or something, not a smart move.

By The Grace Of God is going to be calling it quits because Duncan is "retiring" from hardcore... give me a break! I guess it's time to hang the guitar up on the wall...

In Europe news, Eyeball have a 7" out which I believe is called "Talking Straight", but I may be wrong on that one. Sportswear have a new 7" called "It Runs Deep" which should be out in late summer on Crucial Response. In the meantime, get the first 7" as it is great. Straight up Bold influenced, definitely the best band in Europe.

Virginia Beach's Time Flies have a 7" coming out on NJ's Teamwork Records called "Can't Change the Past". Also coming out on Teamwork is a 7" for Jersey's Full Speed Ahead who play music which echoes that of Negative Approach, look out for these guys. 97a will have a new 3 song 7" either coming out soon or out now. I don't know how they are going to do a 3 song 7" considering most of their songs don't even clock in over a minute. Yet another project in the works for Teamwork is something new from Rain On The Parade, most likely a 7".

CIV have finally released their latest disc called "Thirteen Day Getaway". As you have probably heard, they deliver a full dose of pop here. They will be heading out for the long ride on the Warped Tour this summer along with H2O and a whole lot of others. H2O have been touring all over the globe, playing to thousands of kids.



Another band that called it quits is Rancor. Jamie who played guitar in Rancor now plays for Rain On The Parade as Justin who played guitar moved to the drums to replace Chris Ross who is now in a band called Nora. Matt Summers of My War Records also replaced Matt Smith on bass. The new line-up is shaky, but I'm sure as they play out a little more things will come together a little better.

Rancor still have another 7" recorded. That is still going to be put out on Young Blood Records. Youngblood also just put out the Bladecrasher 7" called "700 Club". It's just a shame it came out so long after Bladecrasher broke up. Although, BC just recently played a reunion show in Virginia Beach.

# AUTOMATIC



Automatic is a hardcore band coming out of Louisville Kentucky. They feature current or past members of Mouthpiece, By The Grace of God, and The Enkindels. Automatic plays music that is best described as a cross between Dag Nasty and Uniform Choice. This interview was done over the phone on June 9th with Matt Wieder, who sings for Automatic.

## How did Automatic start?

Actually, the idea of it started a long time ago. I met Thommy, the drummer, through Prodigy on the internet and we talked back and fourth. I came down to Louisville a couple of times and we always talked about how we were going to do a straight edge band because straight edge isn't a really popular thing in Louisville, he was the only straight edge kid I knew that was from Louisville. So we were like "yeah, we should do a straight edge band", just kind of joking around. I ended up moving to Kentucky so we decided to just do it because I had already had the songs written, atleast most of them, I was like "we should do that band". So we practiced and eventually we talked to the guy from Capsule Records and we said "yeah, we have a band" and he was like "oh

really, I'll put you guys out". We were like "ok, but you've never heard us..." he was like "Oh, I don't care, I want to put you guys out." It was supposed to be a four way split LP with us, Battery, Hands Tied, and Halfmast. He called me up a month later and was like "oh, everyone else backed out", we're like "we'll just do a seven inch than, that's fine." We went in and recorded the seven inch and he said the we should become a real band so we found some people and now we're a real band I guess.

So when it was Thommy and you, it was just you two doing the music?

Yeah, on the record I did everything except drums. Thommy played drums.

Didn't you throw around the idea of joining Hands Tied?

Yeah, when Hands Tied started it was Tim, Ed, and I. We were going to do a new band after Mouthpiece. We knew it the whole time, we were like "what's the name going to be" and stuff like that. I think we were talking about it on the Mouthpiece west coast tour in '95. Even before Mouthpiece broke up we were going to

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do another band. Two of the songs on the seven inch are actually songs that I wrote for Hands Tied, the music for them anyway...

Which two songs?

"Monument" and "Drive Blind". Supposedly, from what Ed says, one of the riffs from "Drive Blind" is on the Hands Tied seven inch. I guess they used it in one of their songs, but I've never heard it. So I was going to be in that band, but I ended up leaving the area and moving to Kentucky and this happened.

So after you guys did the seven inch, how did the rest of the band come together?

Well, we were like "ok, we want to be a straight edge band." Not like a militant straight edge band or anything but one of the things that was important to us was that everyone in the band be straight edge. We wanted to find people who could play and had decent equipment and were also straight edge, that was kind of a tough thing to make happen. Especially around here where there's not a lot of people who are straight edge, and the ones that are seem to be really young. The person who was playing bass for The Enkindles at the time, we got him to play guitar, we had his

little brother, who is still a pretty talented musician and we needed to find another guitar player. We've actually had a bunch of different guitar players already, but the nucleus of the band right now is Thommy, the bass player for The Enkindles now, his name is Dan and he also plays for Automatic, Ryan plays guitar, and I sing. We keep having to switch second guitar players because we keep getting the same people filling in. As of right now, we really have four people and are looking for that fifth person.

What's the scene like in Kentucky?

For the stuff that we do there isn't much of a scene. As far as shows goes, there are a lot of shows and a lot of kids who are into it. It's kind of self absorbed, everyone is into things the just involve Louisville so a lot of the out of town bands that are popular everywhere else can't draw here, it's kind of strange. I actually like it. I like to keep away from everything.



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Do you think you get a better response in Jersey or Philly compared to Louisville?

Oh yeah. In Kentucky there might only be a group of ten or fifteen people who like us a lot, everyone else could care less. Our crowd is on the east coast. We played Krazy Fest here and it was insane. There was a lot of kids from out of town and everyone here that liked us. It was really awesome and was definitely the best show that we have played.

Thommy played drums in By The Grace Of God, right?

Yeah.

What is your reaction to everything that went on between them and Florpunch? Since Thommy was in By The Grace Of God, I imagine it had some effect on you also.

Yeah, I mean... It's kind of a touchy subject. There's kind of a division here between those guys and



A different song. I always said should not be done You and I We're not the same.

#### Drive Blind

Plastic smiles melt away so fast Dripping poison on the things that we build Choke on convenience fuel the machine It doesn't give a damn about the things that it kills And what makes it so sick What makes you such a fool You never feel an ounce of guilt You never felt so fucking cool In life My life Is all that I have Gray skies Choking us to death Guilty hands You could care less You don't get it You're killing us 85 miles an hour Now you're running out of gas Take a look at yourself A good hard look Through the pieces of broken glass And everyone's effected A slave to their false needs Choke on convenience fuel the machine Stay a prisoner to the lives we lead Choke on your self image Feel your worthless greed Don't ask how you killed it Continue to feel your Selfish needs.

#### Not The Same

You second guess my life Why? You wonder what's in my head? You wonder what's in my head?

the people who aren't affected. We used to be friends, but we aren't anymore, I'm not really sure how it happened but it did. As far as that whole thing goes, I don't think anyone cares. It's just something that happened between Duncan (By The Grace Of God) and Mark (Flopunch). Either way you look at it, I think they were probably wrong on both sides and I could actually care less about what happened and I don't think Thommy even really cares either. Duncan retired, so it doesn't even matter. If people think that it's like Louisville and New Jersey, it's not like that at all.

I think the lyrics to "Drive Blind" are kind of interesting, what is that song really about?

The song, I guess, literally, is about how people are just slaves to their car. When I lived in New York City, how many cars were on the street and how there is so much mass transit available. No one wants to take the train or ride a bus, they want to drive their cars everywhere. It makes things really dangerous and besides that, when people get behind their car they just become maniacs. But it's mostly about convenience and how to take the easy way in everything regardless of what the effects are to themselves and

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everyone else around them. And the environment. I mean, I'm totally included in it too. I ride a bike everywhere, for me it's just so much fun. It's kind of silly but...

Is the music for the new songs being written as a whole band now?

Yeah, kind of. There are a couple songs on the new record that I wrote everything and it's like "here is the song, let's do it", there's a song that Thommy wrote, there's a song that Ryan wrote. basically what happens is I usually have songs that I'll show to the band and someone will be like "oh, I have this idea", and then I'll arrange it so. It's definitely more of a band effort.

Is it easier when you have other people giving input to songs?

It's a lot easier because I won't have to come up with every part. They'll come up with something I would have never thought of. I usually write songs a certain way, I have a formula I usually go back to. Other people in the bands thinking is different than mine and they do things I would have never thought to do. I definitely think that the new record is going to be a lot better than out other one because we are going to spend a lot more time getting it together. We kind of rushed the first one.

And the new record is going to be on My War Records?

Yeah.

How did that come about?

Matt from My War and a friend of mine drove down to Kentucky to see us play. I was talking about how New Direction wanted to put it out, but we would have to wait for him to get more money back from the Envy cd and Matt was like "I'll put it out right now if you want". So we were like "Ok." We were going to record a few months back but that was canceled, we were actually going to record tonight but that got canceled... The Enkindles are leaving for a six week tour soon so I really don't know when we are going to get it recorded.

The new one is going to be an LP and a 7"?

Yeah, the LP will have the old seven inch plus five new songs, the seven inch will just have the new songs.

That sounds cool, is there anything else you would like to mention?

Yeah, keep your eyes peeled for the new Automatic record when it comes out.

Automatic

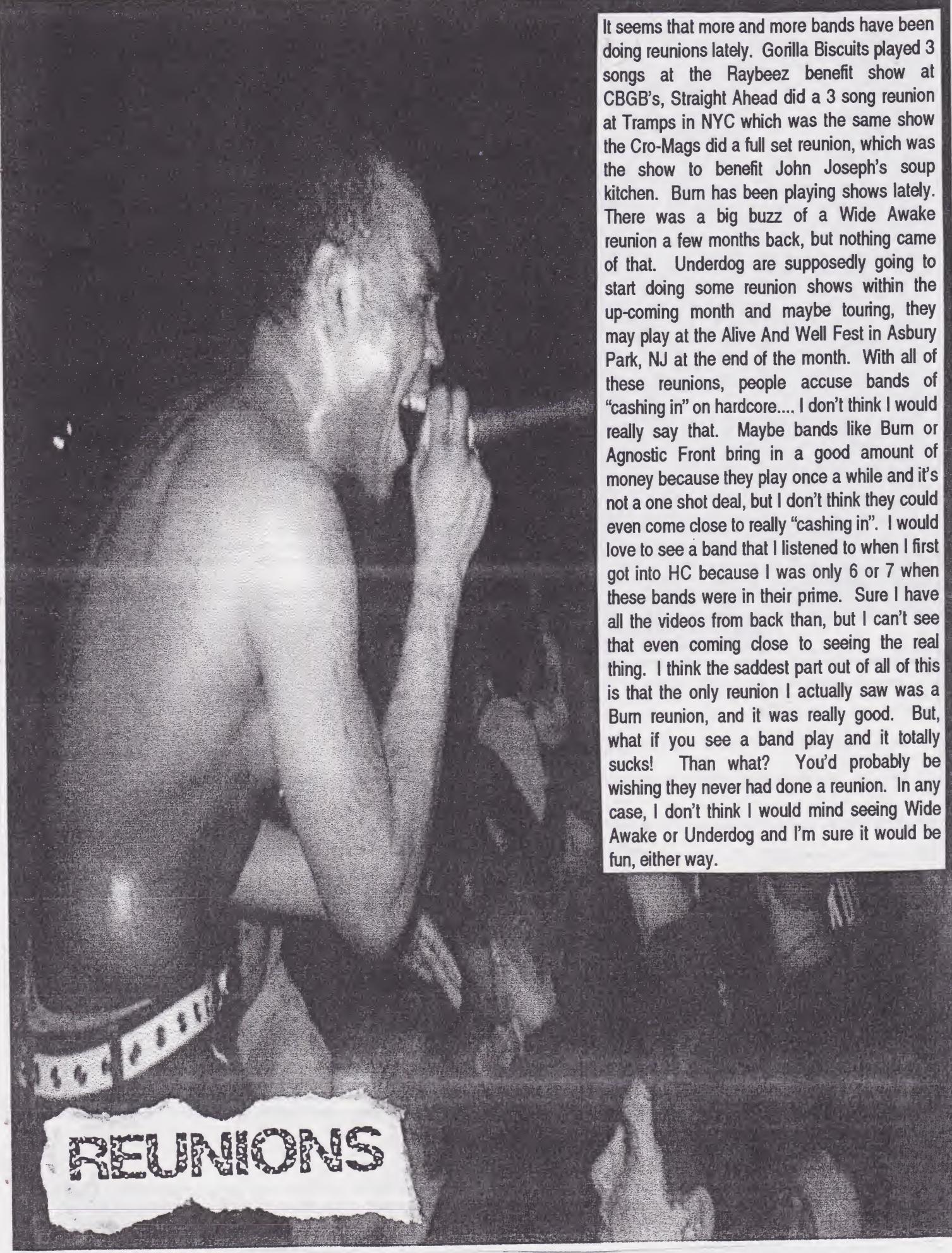


**IGNITE**

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pic: Christina Dong





It seems that more and more bands have been doing reunions lately. Gorilla Biscuits played 3 songs at the Raybeez benefit show at CBGB's, Straight Ahead did a 3 song reunion at Tramps in NYC which was the same show the Cro-Mags did a full set reunion, which was the show to benefit John Joseph's soup kitchen. Burn has been playing shows lately. There was a big buzz of a Wide Awake reunion a few months back, but nothing came of that. Underdog are supposedly going to start doing some reunion shows within the up-coming month and maybe touring, they may play at the Alive And Well Fest in Asbury Park, NJ at the end of the month. With all of these reunions, people accuse bands of "cashing in" on hardcore.... I don't think I would really say that. Maybe bands like Burn or Agnostic Front bring in a good amount of money because they play once a while and it's not a one shot deal, but I don't think they could even come close to really "cashing in". I would love to see a band that I listened to when I first got into HC because I was only 6 or 7 when these bands were in their prime. Sure I have all the videos from back then, but I can't see that even coming close to seeing the real thing. I think the saddest part out of all of this is that the only reunion I actually saw was a Burn reunion, and it was really good. But, what if you see a band play and it totally sucks! Than what? You'd probably be wishing they never had done a reunion. In any case, I don't think I would mind seeing Wide Awake or Underdog and I'm sure it would be fun, either way.

## REUNIONS



# HANDS TIED

Interview: February 21st  
outside of the YWCA in Philly.

Alright, there's been a lot of member changes going on in Hands Tied, would you like to run down what's going on?

Ed: Well, initially, we started with Pat, this skater kid, named Pat Guidotti, and Sean, who was like the last bass player in Mouthpiece, and things just didn't work out with those guys. So we got... Who did we get next?

Tim: Matt...

Ed: Yeah, we got Matt Smith and a fellow from Norway named Espen came out to play for us. He, unfortunately, had to leave because his visa ran out in this country. So we were playing for a while with just Matt, Geoff... oh, I forgot to mention Geoff. This kid from Sayerville, whose been around for a long time, joined the band after Pat left and things didn't work out... as far as Espen was, his visa ran out and everything, so...

Tim: He was kind of forced to go back and establish some kind of citizenship, or something like that to get back. We got Dan to fill in while Espen was gone, so the line up was

Ed - bass, me, Tim - vocals, Geoff - drums, Dan - guitar, and Matt - guitar. And then we had some problems with Matt, so Matt ended up leaving the band and...

Ed: Without Espen, it didn't really sound as thick with just Matt.

**What exactly happened with Matt and you guys?**

Tim: Really what happened was we got Dan to fill in for us while Espen was gone because we weren't able to play with just Matt... I mean, I guess we could of but we've practiced and stuff but....

(The alarm goes off in the car and Ed doesn't know how to fix it... he fools around with it for a minute or two until it stops as he waves to the onlookers...)

Tim: but anyway... yeah, so when Espen left, we kept practicing with Matt, I mean Matt is a cool kid, but he just wasn't strong enough a guitar player for us to play as a four piece. So, we've known Dan for a while and asked him if he would like fill in so we could play some shows and after a while Dan pretty much said he wanted to be in the band, he wanted to do the band. We still had Espen who still planned on coming back, so then we went from the problem of having no guitar players to having too many guitar players. We kind of looked at it like this... at least Matt has another band, Matt has Rain On The Parade, so it's not like he doesn't have anything going on. So like, Geoff and I have been friends with Dan for like years so it was cool doing a band with him again and he was able to write songs for us a lot faster, and better than how things were going because Matt really wasn't writing a lot of songs for us. So basically we were going to Europe and like I said, we were stuck with having three guitar players and we had to make a decision, what are we going to do? Is Dan going to go with us to Europe or is Espen going to play with us in Europe? Is Matt gonna go to Europe... so we just decided, in the long run, I think things will work out the best if we keep Dan, if Dan wants to be in the band, Dan will stay in the band, go to Europe, Espen will play for us... at least Matt has Rain On The Parade and he's got other things going on so... I mean, it was a tough decision to make, it's not something we really enjoyed making but it just came down to that and we kind of weighted our decisions and options... that's what we really tried to do.

**Is everyone still on good grounds with the past members?**

Tim: Um... I guess, I mean really, I, speaking for myself, I don't really talk to anybody, I haven't talked to Matt since he left the band, I see Pat once in a while, our drummer, and Sean... you know, whatever. We don't have any problems with anybody, everybody's cool. The band was kind of the thing that kept us together as far as our thoughts, for the most part, we weren't really friends who hung out all the time, you know what I mean? That's kind of the problem, once they left, we just didn't see each other much so...

# HANDS TIED

I just read in an interview that Tim said that the Matt Smith line up was your most solid one, even in Mouthpiece, you never really had a solid lineup going. Do you feel this lineup is better... and here to stay?

Tim: Um... Yeah... I mean, as far as when I said the lineup was a solid lineup, really what I was meaning was that we had five totally dedicated kids who were, pretty much all on the same wavelength, knew what we wanted to do and had the same goals. We thought we could accomplish what we wanted to do. That's pretty much what I meant, 'cause with Mouthpiece, it would always be me, Chris and Jason, the three original guys and we would have these scattered nomad guys coming through here and there who would like... these gypsy guitar players passing through, (laughter) and sometimes we didn't see eye to eye with everybody, you know, nothing personal, things didn't always mesh, whereas, at that time we really had a strong unit. Unfortunately, it wasn't the best sounding unit we ever had, that was one of the problems. Right now, we have a pretty solid lineup, we're definitely writing the best songs we've ever written thanks to Dan, I definitely think this is the best lineup we've had, hopefully it stays this way.

## So Is Espen coming back, or is he just in Sportswear?

Tim: We really don't know. He wants to come back. I think we'd like him to come back, but there's just so many problems getting over here and becoming a citizen, even just coming over here to stay for just a couple months, everything is just a big hassle. One, he doesn't have a car over here, he's got to get a job over here, find a place to live, there's just all kinds of things he has to deal with. And really, speaking for myself, I'm too busy to really concentrate and try to work things out with him, I'm busy with my own life. Everybody else, I think they're pretty much in the same boat. We can't really take him under our wings. Nobody can really afford to have him live at our houses drive him around and everything. If he can get citizenship and he can get over here and thinks he can make it work than cool, right now things are kind of up in the air, we'll just see what happens.

## So Dan, how do you feel about being a four piece, do you think you can take care of the guitar, or do you think you need another person to fill in?

Dan: I think I can handle it. Guitar wise, I've been in more demanding situations, but I like the sound of the four piece. I like it better than a five piece. It's tighter and I like to hear the bass more as an instrument, rather than most hardcore bands with these huge guitar amps and the bass player just plays the same thing as guitar, it just sounds kind of boring, it's not even like a real band. It's just kind of cheesy I think. I don't think we've run into any real problems so far with that sound... well you tell me... I mean not sounding heavy enough...

## I think it's fine... I mean... Alright, let's talk about Europe, I know that was a major goal in Hands Tied, so how did everything turn out?

Dan: Pretty well...

Tim: It went incredible, Europe is unbelievable. For an American band who is used to playing in America and getting treated like you do over here, to go over there it's just like night and day. You go over there and first of all, you just get off the plane and you have a tour manager bringing us to this big, huge luxury tour bus, with bunk beds and a driver loading our equipment on. We get to the show and the afternoon before the show starts they have breakfast for us, we load in, get a sound check. Every place we played was a club, had a stage, a sound system, a sound man, just so well organized. We set up our merchandise, get to hang out in every city we're in and then come back. We get dinner for five o'clock, it's unbelievable... and all of this is paid for, including our flight out there.

## Did the guys from Equal Vision do that?

Dan: No one paid our way, it just got advanced and all of the money got paid back from all of the shows.

## Did they set it all up for you?

Tim: M.A.D., it's a booking company over there, they set everything up for it. Equal Vision basically talked to M.A.D., it's like we want these bands over there and they do it. So we got the airline tickets and everything taken care of.

Dan: It was pretty invigorating to play for like three or four hundred kids, five hundred kids who were really into us during it. We've played in bands in New Jersey for like eight years now, nine years. Playing New Jersey there like fifty people up front. Playing Belgium for the first time, there's four hundred and fifty kids the first time, seven hundred kids the second time.

Ed: There's just more respect over there, it seems like kids appreciate what we're doing more over there than here.

Tim: They don't get it, like people over here just...

Ed: Take it for granted.

Tim: They take it for granted, there's just so many attitudes, everybody thinks there cooler than this guy and this isn't cool now... everyone just respects American bands because they just don't get it. For the most part, I'd say almost all of our shows we had between three hundred and seven hundred people. The shows where there were three hundred people, there were like one hundred fifty kids, two hundred kids up front singing along. Shows where there were seven hundred people, there would be five hundred people up front. I'm not talking just packed in there, these kids were up front diving, dancing, singing along... knowing every word, it's unbelievable, it's the whole package, just incredible. Than you come back here and play a show like this where there's a lot of people, but everyone just stands in the back, stares at you, and...

Dan: Gives you the finger.

# HANDS TIED



# HANDS TIED HANDS TIED HANDS TIED

Tim: Gives you the finger you know? There's just so many attitudes... I really didn't know how bad it was here until you go over there and realize how good it is. There were a couple of record labels and these guys were at every show, putting out all of the bands over there, these guys are just on top of things.

Dan: It's definitely not just a good scene for American bands, because everyone's like, European bands are shitty... we played with a lot of good bands... Eyeball, Sportswear, Thumbs Down, they were really good. Who else did we play with... I like Mainstrike. There's like a pretty strong scene, independently, kids are just so much more supportive.

Tim: Their like genuinely interested and dedicated to it. Almost every show I met a guy who was over thirty years old, who had kids, was married and like...

Dan: Still in hardcore

Tim: I'm not exaggerating, I met so many kids who were like, I went around to every Youth Of Today show, I went around to every Gorilla Biscuits show, and now I'm going around to every Hands Tied show. You don't find that over here.

Ed: Here you're even lucky if someone says good set... seriously. I walked through a crowd of people, just got done playing, I'm not saying I'm expecting anybody to fucking hand me money or anything... we just get done playing and kids don't even get out of your way, let alone say good set or anything like that. It's just a lack of respect here as compared to there, and like he said, you don't realize how you have it.

Tim: I know people are going to read this interview and probably think like these guys are fucking bloated heads and think so high of themselves and expect to be treated like this... but I tell you what, you go over there and you just see what it's like, you have to really experience it to really know. I had heard this and I had heard that, I really never knew exactly what it was going to be like. It's definitely incredible and like I said, if your in a band

and have a chance to go over there, try to do it because it's fuckin' awesome.

Yeah, I know, I get to see you guys like once or twice a month but I can imagine having to wait for you guys to go over there...

Tim: We had kids from Norway who followed us around...

Dan: They drove like thirty six hours.

Ed: Trains overnight...

Tim: Literally, they traveled to like fifteen shows. These kids were driving...

Dan: Paying to get in.

Tim: Yeah, I'd be like, "Hey, want me to put you on the guest list?" "Ah, no, no, no, man. We know you need the money." It's crazy! After like six shows of seeing the same kid it's like "Hey man, I'll put you on the guest list if you want." I just can't say enough good things about it.

So do you think your favorite show would be over there, or do you have one that still sticks out more in the U.S.?

Tim: For me, as far as Hands Tied shows, we've definitely played our best shows over there... I mean I've played some fucking good Mouthpiece shows over here.

Dan: Some of those shows over there actually held a candle to some good Mouthpiece shows over here in the Mouthpiece heyday.

Tim: Some of the best Mouthpiece shows were pretty much like most of the Hands Tied shows over there. So as far as I'm concerned, yeah, we've definitely, I think, we've played our best shows over there.

I know you guys put out a special seven inch with the Project X cover, how did that come about?

Tim: Our record has been out for two years. We really didn't have anything to sell over there, we didn't have a new record out.

Dan: Plus the distribution is really bad in Europe, Equal Vision distributes exclusively through Revelation and a company called Semiford does all of Revelation's distribution there. Semiford didn't pay Revelation on a huge invoice so Rev said, "Ok, we're not sending you any more records." So when we got to Europe, people couldn't buy our seven inch for the last six months, so no one could get our record, they couldn't really even promote us and say go out and buy the seven inch because you can't get the



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seven inch. So we knew the seven inch was kind of scarce and we really just wanted to just have something special. We didn't sell them in the U.S., we only sold them there.

Tim: We said, "Why don't we do three hundred colored vinyl records." Than our drummer Goeff, he works at a silk screen company, he was like "I'll silk screen the covers." It kept going down to these little things... "How 'bout we do this, how 'bout we do that." We were just so busy the days, the weeks leading into this, before we left. It really ended up being the night before we were leaving we were like, we still have to do all of this. We got to layout a cover, go screen three hundred covers and fold them. We still had to do all this shit. Than like me and Ed were sitting at my house trying to get together a layout and I pulled out the Project X seven inch...

Ed: A little inspiration...

Tim: I said, "Alright, it's gonna be a folded cover with the lyrics on one side and the cover back on the other side." So I got the Project X seven inch just to see how it was set up and joking around I typed out Hands Tied in the same font Project X was and the songs... kind of laid it down and was "Hey, what do you think of this," joking around... and Ed goes, "That looks fucking awesome!" (laughter) I was like "Are you serious?" He's like "Yeah, that's the fucking best idea I've seen so far." I'm like "Whatever... it looks kinda cool, let's just fucking do it, just for the fun of it." So we just did it. We got down there and sold all of our records in the first three days. We probably could have used a thousand of them. We could have easily sold that many. The second show we played, was one of the biggest shows we played there was like seven hundred people there. Almost everyone who bought one bought them two at a time. Some people bought like fifteen, twenty. The guy from Crucial Response was like I'm buying twenty of these because I know there going to be worth something. Three days later we're playing a show and there like, "Hey, did you hear about Peter, from Crucial Response? He traded one of those for a Judge Schism seven inch." Where like "What!" Before we knew it was getting out of hand. People would come up to me and be like "Can I buy two of them?" "Alright, you can buy two." Than they would go to Geoff and say "Tim said I could buy five of them."

Dan: It was cool for once that, I don't know how many kids in the United States will want it, but you always hear of kids in Europe paying outrageous money and ridiculous trades for stuff, it's just cool that they got it. Now it's gone and for once, those guys get something cool.

So what are the plans for recording now?

Dan: We have enough songs for a seven inch and we could do an LP really easily... what are we trying to do really? What's holding us back?

Tim: Trying to decide if we want to do an EP, if we want to do an LP. The Hands Tied seven inch has been out for two years, we really haven't done a hell of a lot for this band. We play, we've gone to Europe, we've played some shows, but we really haven't played that much because of all these problems and member changes we've had with the band... really what we need to do is get a record out soon. We can't really record a record and wait like fuckin' six months until it comes out. For those six months we're just gonna be sitting on the back burner doing nothing. We're going to be playing shows, but it's gonna be like this every night. So, right now we're just trying to decide what we can do to get a record out in less than six months. We want to get a record out soon, we have the songs, if we can do the seven inch, than do it, if it comes down to it and we can do an LP, we can still write the songs in the matter of a couple weeks.

Dan: I think part of what's holding us back is we're not really sure what we want to do, we want to tour with a lot of different bands. It's kind of a breaking point, obviously our music is the same, if you've heard any of the new songs it's the same exact style as the other ones. It's just that we're really striking out playing these kind of shows. Like around here we just don't get any great respect. We can play a million shows and kids just either aren't into it or I don't know what. We're looking to travel and get out of New Jersey and maybe go back to Europe, we want to go out with bigger bands.

Tim: That's really the key to it, we played like five shows before we left for Europe who were set up by this guy Tim Borror who does booking for a lot of bigger bands like Shelter... who else does he book for? Wu-Tang Clan? I don't know.

Ed: Probably (laughter)

Tim: He books H2O, and Burn I guess. So we talked to him and he was able to get us on a few shows before we left, and they were like the best shows we've played. Because we were playing with these bigger bands and there were a lot of people there. We played a Show in New York City, it was pretty rad, we played a show in DC, which was awesome, we played a show in...

(These two guys walk up to the car... Tim opens the door and they were like "Hey we got some eq man..." Tim said we were doing an interview and they walked away... I really hope he knew who those people were...)

Ed: I think we're actually parked outside of a crack house right now...

Tim: So anyway, what was I saying?

Playing with bigger bands...

Tim: Yeah, so we were playing these good shows so the bottom line was, they were set up well...

Dan: Promoted well.

Tim: Promoted well, and were very successful shows. Really, most of the shows Hands Tied has played have been kids booking shows at VFW halls, but there's nothing else going on, it gets into a vicious circle. These VFW halls, really, these kids can't afford to get these bigger bands out there.

Dan: Or like a good P.A.

Tim: A good P.A., a stage.

Dan: Promote the show properly.

Tim: Kids just get kind of bored of it. I may not be, but a lot of other kids... you can just see them, their falling off, there getting sick of coming

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pic: Aaron Leonovich

Nothing can fuckin' compare!

# HANDS TIED HANDS TIED HANDS

## NEW JERSEY STRAIGHT EDGE

to all of these shows. It's cool to have Robby (Redcheeks) doing a show here, this place has a stage, it's got a sound system, he's getting some bigger bands... we need more people like this. Everyone's thinking like "Hey, I'm doing my part, D.I.Y., putting a show on in my fuckin' grandma's basement." But it's really getting pretty slow. The big bands aren't coming through and the smaller bands are just playing and people are just getting bored of it, something has to happen. I'm speaking mainly of New Jersey, I guess it could apply to this whole little area, New Jersey, and locally Pennsylvania, stuff like that. It's just a vicious circle.

Dan: The shows we've played, that I think have been the better shows, have been when we played with bands where like, guys we know, who were in other straight edge bands in New Jersey were like "Ah, that show's gonna suck, it's not going to be real hardcore kids. H2O are just a bunch of fifteen year old kids." If we get more enjoyment out of playing where kids don't give us the finger and stuff like that. We've played with H2O, the shows were great, we've played with Better Than A Thousand, the shows were great, we've played with Murphy's Law, where we showed up late and had to play after Murphy's Law. A lot of kids still stuck around to check us out.

Ed: Plus, it exposes us to a lot of kids who would have never heard us before and these kids have enough respect to atleast be intrigued by it. Their not walking away during our set or giving us the fuckin' finger or anything like that.

Dan: Even if you want to walk away, fine...

Ed: You can walk away, you don't owe me anything, if you don't like it, than you don't like it. These kids at these bigger shows seem to be, at the very least, intrigued.

Tim: It's something new. You have these bigger bands like H2O playing, who's got videos on MTV, all these people who don't know anything about bands like us go to these shows and their honestly interested. Where as, you play one of your little D.I.Y. shows, where it's all the local hardcore kids and stuff. Sixty percent of them just have attitudes, their just like..."Ah, fuck you, Hands Tied, I don't want to see them because they wear..." Something stupid, you know what I mean? It's just a bunch of fuckin' attitudes. When me and Ed got Geoff and Matt and started playing again after the first line up, all Geoff was hearing was bullshit... like "How can you be in that band, man? Are you sure you look the part? Do you dress the part, wear the right sneakers? What about their hair..." People just care about these stupid things. Like "All of those care about their sneakers." It's bullshit, if all I cared about was my sneakers, why would I be doing a band? Why would I be in hardcore for twelve years? Why am I still here doing this? The point is, all these people care too much about all these stupid little things. Like how short my hair is, or how much fucking... whatever, it's just stupid stuff. When we play shows with the bigger bands and their a lot more kids coming to, they don't know any better, their minds are more open to it.

Dan: The bands themselves, they like it, like "Yeah, we want expensive equipment, we want tour support." Like when we play with bigger bands, their not surprised by that, their accustomed to that, that's the standard. I kind of like being in that mix a little bit better. When we played with H2O, we get food at the show, we get a dressing room, we get water, we get towels. This isn't some crazy thing, it's not being a rock star, it's nothing. A kid who does a show in his fucking garage thinks it's a fuckin' big deal to buy a band a bottle of water... that isn't shit, dude. We've been doing bands for a long time, honestly, we're starting to put a lot of effort into this band. We just want something in return. That VFW thing is awesome, but I've been in a lot of bands, they've been in bands, we've been through that fame already. We want to still do that and move to the next level. It's funny, when we say that people give us shit like "Oh, you guys want to be rock stars." H2O's on Epitaph, and everyone loves them, but if a straight edge band wants to do something it's like "That's beat." We don't owe it to anyone to be poor for the rest of our lives.

So if you guys were going on tour, what would be your ideal bigger band to go with?

Ed: Pearl Jam

### REARRANGE

Never thought I'd get through this.  
Left so much failure in my path. I tried to push it all away.  
It was always on my heels kept my will against the wall.  
Never saw a solution in sight. Now I see it all.  
Never thought I'd make the change but I kept my drive and I rearranged.  
It was always on my heels kept my will against the wall.

Tim: Yeah, the Spice Girls.

Dan: Stuff we've like... what would you say?

Tim: Better Than A Thousand.

Dan: Better Than A Thousand, Civ, Shelter, 7 Seconds, Ignite, Sick Of It All... like, we want to tour with all hardcore bands, we'd like to play... like I'd like to play an arena... (laughter) We're not shooting for an arena, we just want to try to get to the next level and do what it takes...

I just was wondering about some of your lyrics... especially the song "rearrange".

Tim: Rearrange? Yeah, I can honestly tell you where that song came from. For the most part, all the lyrics I write, every song, they come from a personal experience. If it's not about a certain person, it's about a certain experience, I just don't go "OK, today I want to write a song about friendship, today I want to write a song about vegetarianism." I live something, and if it motivates me enough to write about it, I do. A song like "rearrange" is pretty much about, through college, I've been taking this math class forever, I took it like three times and I kept failing it and math is like my weakest part. I finally fuckin' buckled down, got my shit together, and passed it. Honestly, that's what that song is about and you can apply it to anything. When there's things in life you keep failing at and you want to win over, you got to put you mind to it and just fucking do it. That's all it's about. To me, when I sing it, and when I get up on stage, I don't think about what I originally wrote it about, but I can apply it to like, ten thousand other things now.

### HANDS TIED HANDS



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I know you guys get on the Internet... what's your response to people who go under a fake name with no e-mail or no way to reply to them and --

Tim: It's just bullshit. The internet's just kind of a joke though, it's hard to take it seriously.

Dan: We like it... honestly.

Ed: It's a good time...

Dan: If people want to talk shit about us, I said it right on the internet, it helps us sell records and t-shirts. No one really cares about us so, when people talk shit about us...

Ed: Atleast it gets our name out there, you know.

Dan: It makes us happy, were like "All right!" (laughter)

Tim: That's all fine, but a lot of times, people just start taking personal shots. Like "That Tim, he's an asshole."

Ed: Or "We're gonna clean his clock."

Tim: It's just a bunch of bullshit, I haven't met one person, tons of people talk shit to the point where I don't even get on. I get on the internet, but I don't go to any hardcore homepages anymore, check any message boards. Everybody that did would never tell me who they were, like "I'll beat you up at a show you fucker." Go ahead, I'm the one that's up on stage, apparently you know who I am, I don't know who you are. Come up to me, say something to me... I mean whatever... I'll fuckin' beat your fuckin' ass. I mean I'm not a fucking violent person, but if your going to rip on me and talk shit on me, and fuckin' say it like there's not going to be any...

Dan: Repercussions.

Tim: Repercussions from it, come up to my face and talk shit to me, maybe I'll talk it out with you, but if you're going to be a fucking cock and talk about how you're gonna clean my clock, I'm gonna put my fuckin' foot in your fucking face.

Ed: As well as like four other guys too.

Dan: Really, what it boils down to is, I've been into hardcore for twelve years, I really don't care what some little kid on his computer thinks about me... honestly. Chances are, regrettably, I'll be in it longer than he will. So, what do we care about some kid who doesn't even know us says. Like "Those guys, they wear expensive sneakers." Good observation. Yeah, we do, who cares. It's flattering that people are preoccupied thinking about us.

**So what's the whole thing with Justin from Indecision?**

Dan: Nothing

Tim: Some people say that it's him, some people say it's just someone else using his name.

Dan: Someone said our band sucked, which probably happens about a million times every day so...

**Alright, this is basically for Tim and Ed, I know you don't really have any control over it, but earlier, when you were just starting out, how fliers for shows and stuff would say... "Hands Tied. Ex-members of Mouthpiece and Suppression Swing." Even on the Equal Vision add for you guys said like "From the ashes of Mouthpiece, this is what lies ahead." What do you feel about that? Like their trying to sell you as an extension of the two?**

Tim: I actually told Steve to write that.. "From the ashes of Mouthpiece..." Really all it is advertising like, "I did a band for six years, I'm doing a new band and for all the people if you liked Mouthpiece, check out..."



pic: Christina Dong

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Ed: It's like when Shelter played at City Gardens for the first time it said "featuring Ray and Porcell from Youth Of Today."

Dan: It basically said "Youth Of Today."

Ed: I was there... with bells on.

Tim: For the people who care, it works, for the people who don't care, it doesn't work.

Ed: There's got to be marketing, even in hardcore.

Dan: We don't write records to try and not sell any of them.

Ed: If we sold a million records, we wouldn't be upset by it at all, we're not going to drink booze if it's cool or sells more records or anything like that but... just gives a little kick.

Tim: Over in Europe, it was all over the place, but back here, people don't really care anymore.

Ed: That trend has passed.

# HANDS TIED HANDS TIED HANDS TIED

I think you've established yourself enough.

Ed: I don't know about that... maybe in Europe

Dan: Yeah, I kinda wish that trend hadn't passed.

I was just wondering about this, I know it seems like there have been some reunions creeping up. Obviously like Gorilla Biscuits and Burn, I also caught word of a Cro-Mags reunion.. do you guys know if that's...

Dan: I hear it's happening.

Tim: Apparently at Tramps.

Like on March 29th or something... What do you guys feel about this though?

Tim: To me, those bands that do a reunion, are pretty much the only bands I like.

I know you guys were probably around to see them the first time.

Tim: For the most part, yeah, those are the bands that I got into, those are the bands that like motivated me to do a hardcore band, those are the bands that pretty much molded my life. I mean, there's a few bands around today that I like, but, for the most part, if I'm going to have a lot of fun at a show, it's going to be seeing one of those bands. It's unfortunate, at this point a lot of the bands get back together and they haven't held true to anything they've said over the past ten years since they've broken up. I still have fun, so that's all that matters to me.

What are some of everyone's favorite bands playing out now?

Ed: I'd say, Better Than A Thousand, Civ, maybe Ignite.

Tim: In My Eyes are cool.

Dan: I like Orange 9mm, Civ...

Tim: Shelter.

Ed: Oh, Shelter, how could we forget them... the new record is really good.

I like it... no one else does.

Tim: Basically the bands that I like, that I really like, are bands consisting of...

Dan: ...members of bands that I did like.

Tim: There's a few bands like In My Eyes, Florpunch...

Ed: I'll tell you what... Sportswear... seriously. Pretty good stuff.

Tim: There's some newer bands that I like, most of the bands I like, to me, just those guys know how to play fuckin' hardcore. They know how to play music in general. It's not so watered down, there are so many bands around who just don't know the first thing about hardcore and try and play it and it's just watered down bullshit. There's some people who do know what it's about... I'll give everybody a chance, I just usually end up liking a hand full of bands.

That's about all I have, do you guys have anything closing? Like future plans or whatever?

(silence)

Alright!

Ed: Keep it together... stay straight. Go vegetarian, seriously. I'm not joking around now.



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SEVEN

ONE

FOUR

KID DYNASTY

EST. PHILADELPHIA 1997

SATURDAY MAY 23 2:00PM

SPEAK

IN MY EYES

Tex Ignite & No For An Answer

FASTBREAK

TEN YARD FIGHT

KILL YOUR IDOLS

RAIN ON THE PARADE

PHILADELPHIA'S HARDCORE

AT THE WETLANDS 161 HUDSON NYC  
EIGHT DOLLARS • DOORS AT 2PM

N.Y.E.

Fuckutum

I've been screaming for so long  
WOH OH OH  
Has anything ever changed for me?  
My throat is red  
like the blood that flows from my heart  
I gave it my best shot  
and I did it from the very start  
AND I'M STILL GOING!  
Do I deserve to a voice in the aftermath?  
Criticism takes it's toll in a different path  
I do what I can to set myself apart  
I've been trying to make sense of

WOH OH OH  
the little things you always push my way

(chorus)

So, say what you want  
Say what you will  
At least I can say I do what I feel  
is right for me with no apologies  
for you....I owe nothing to you

No

I don't think so.

No.

(chorus)

You can put me down for what I DO.  
But, your density, I'll SHINE THROUGH.  
It reflects in what I DO.  
This is my....  
This is my FUCK YOU!

# REVIEWS



pic: Eric Lesniak

## Better Than A Thousand

### "Self Worth" 7"

- Grapes Of Wrath Records

This is a 7" put out by the German label "Grapes Of Wrath" and is quite hard to find here in the states. There are three songs here, "Self Worth", "Poison In Your Brain", with a different vocal mix than the new LP, and a new song called "You Were There". I think that new vocal mix of "Poison..." is much better than on the cd. There are no back up vocals which is a plus because they were way over done on the original. The new song is pretty much the same old stuff, but it is still really good. A few were made on gold vinyl, this has a pretty good layout, great pictures, lyrics... pick this up if you see it floating around. (Grapes Of Wrath / Oranierstr. 37 / 10999 / Berlin / Germany)

## Beyond

### "No Longer At Ease/Dew It" cd

- Some Records

A much overdue re-issue. This has the classic NYHC band's "No Longer At Ease" LP and their '88 demo, "Due It", all remastered on one cd. The demo has a raw, unpolished sound, whereas the LP is more technical, progressive sound. Both of these releases have been unavailable for the longest time and it was about time someone compiled everything and put it out. Great pictures, a good layout, plus a cool intro written by Wally Schreibels. Members of Beyond went on to play in 1.6 Band, Bold, Inside Out, Quicksand, etc, etc, etc. (Some / 405 West 14 St. No. 3 / NYC / 10014)

## CIV

### "Thirteen Day Getaway" cd

- Atlantic Records

This cd was about two years in the making and I never would have guessed this was the progression it would lead to... total pop... which I really like. The reviews are already in and everyone hates it. Everything is very catchy, good lyrics... Two of these songs were on their 7" that Some Records put out, "Secondhand Superstar" and "Owner's Manual" which is a 30 second hardcore song which straight up rocks. The only thing I don't like about this cd is the layout. There are very few pictures plastered over ugly colors. Regardless, it's a good disc, even though it's not a hardcore one. (Atlantic / 1290 Avenue of the Americans / NY, NY / 10104)

## BETTER THAN A THOUSAND

Self Worth



BEYOND  
NO LONGER AT EASE



## CIV



## REVIEWS

## REVIEWS

**Collision**  
"s/t" 7"/cd  
- Ambassador Records

This band is coming out of CA and they carry their influence along. Straight up Chain or Circle Storm right down to the vocals. Frosty's little bro even plays bass in Collision and used to play in Circle Storm. This is pretty good, nothing great. Four songs on both formats, worth a shot. (Ambassador / 976 W. Foothill Blvd. / Ste. 464 / Claremont, CA / 91711)

**Fastbreak**  
"Fast Cars, Fast Women" LP  
- Big Wheel Recreation

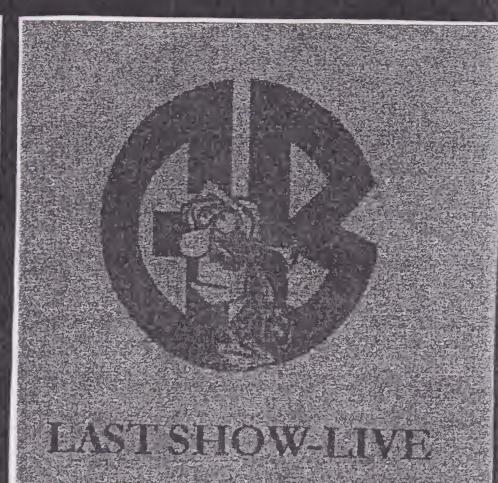
By far the best stuff Fastbreak has done to date. I guess you could call it a more mature sound than that of their early days, heck, they were fifteen when they got started. This has the entire "Where It Lies" 7" re-recorded which is great because that 7" is quite limited. It has "Should Have Known" from the split with Ten Yard Fight, plus five new songs which are absolutely great. The new stuff sticks to the style of music off of the TYF split, but is even more developed, better song structure, and a flawless recording. A bonus track is a re-recorded "Hate Your Way" which seems so much more powerful here. Pick it up, khaki's and dress shoes required. (Big Wheel / 325 Huntington Ave. #24 / Boston, MA. / 02115)

**Gorilla Biscuits**  
"Last Show Live" bootleg 7"

I didn't even know about this until I saw it for sale and it is quite a pleasant surprise. A decent quality dub of GB's last show ever at the Marquee in NYC... February 21, 1992. Six songs, Start Today, Forgotten, Distance (GB/Moondog song), Cats And Dogs, As One (Warzone, of course), and New Direction. The layout is far less than desired, but it's only a boot so I guess quality does suffer. Anyway, you definitely want to pick it up if you can find it.



## COLLISION



## REVIEWS

## REVIEWS

## REVIEWS

### Sportswear

#### "Keep It Together" 7"

- Crucial Response Records

This record has been at the top of my collection for the longest time. Absolutely great hardcore. The influence is easy to find, Bold, "Speak Out" era. The recording is very solid, thick guitars, off-set vocals. A great layout, lyrics and all the action shots you could ask for. These guys know how to play hardcore. Members of Onward, Rectify, and even Hands Tied, as Espen had a short stay in the States to play guitar for 'em. The most solid release coming out of Europe, possibly ever. (Crucial Response / Kaiserfeld 98 / 46047 Oberhausen / Germany)

## SPORTSWEAR



### double decker

Burn

The Avengers

Ensign

Crank! Records

Cursive

The Bruisers

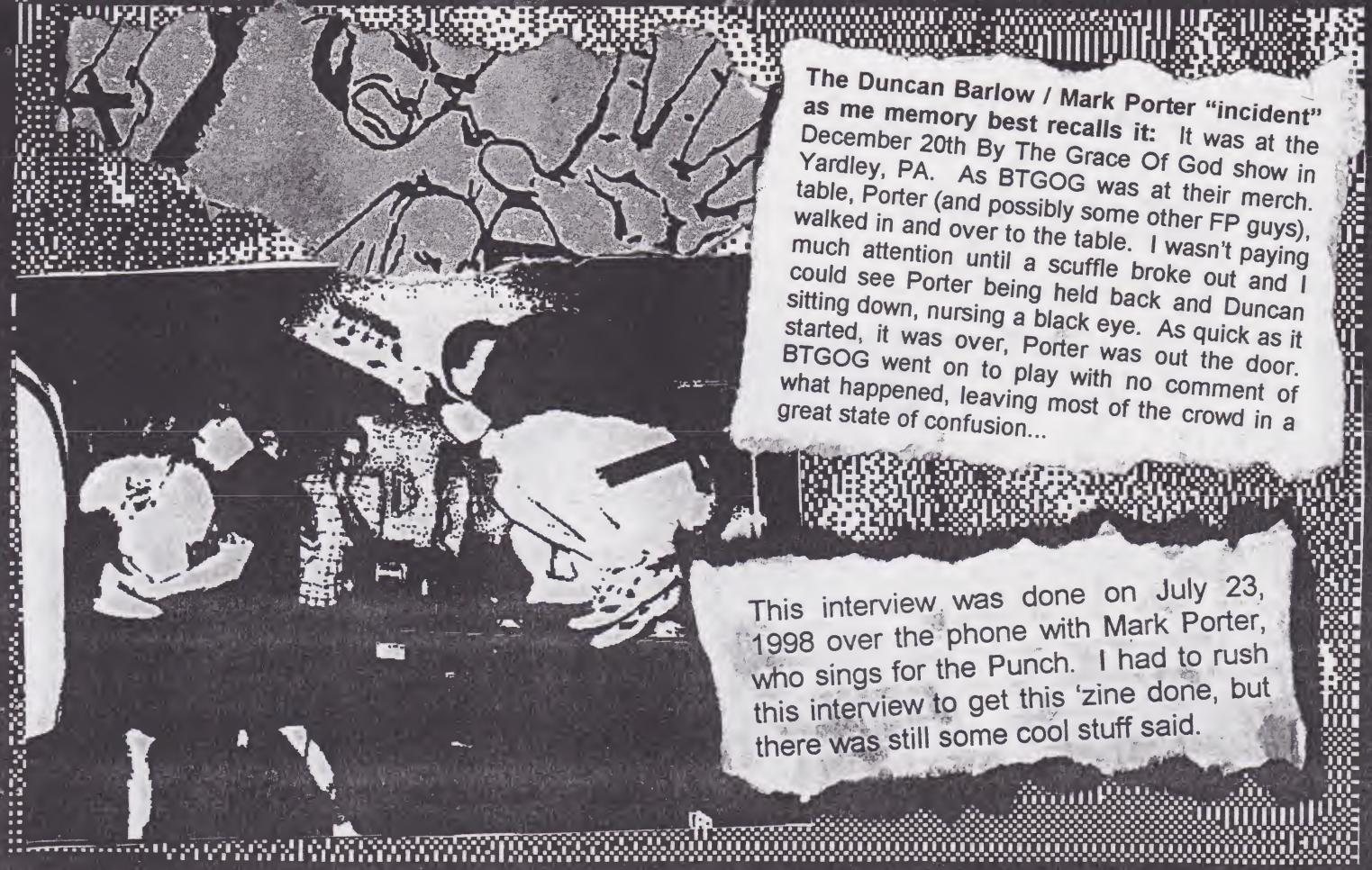
Double Decker, Sportswear, The Avengers, Crank! Records, The Bruisers, and more. Plus lots of great local and national bands.

## GAME X PLAN

A HARDCORE FANZINE



# FLLOORPUNKIN' GOG



The Duncan Barlow / Mark Porter "incident" as me memory best recalls it: It was at the December 20th By The Grace Of God show in Yardley, PA. As BTGOG was at their merch. table, Porter (and possibly some other FP guys), walked in and over to the table. I wasn't paying much attention until a scuffle broke out and I could see Porter being held back and Duncan sitting down, nursing a black eye. As quick as it started, it was over, Porter was out the door. BTGOG went on to play with no comment of what happened, leaving most of the crowd in a great state of confusion...

This interview was done on July 23, 1998 over the phone with Mark Porter, who sings for the Punch. I had to rush this interview to get this 'zine done, but there was still some cool stuff said.

# FLOORPUNCH



When is the new LP coming out?

We're shooting for the end of September or early October.

You recorded it twice, right?

No.

I have a copy of it and it's really, really bad quality.

Oh, That was just a demo we did to see what songs we were into and what songs we weren't into.

How many songs are going to be on the LP when it comes out?

Umm, I believe sixteen. Three old and thirteen new.



Is it more difficult to do band stuff with Zev in Endeavor, Zusi in the Judas Factor, and you living in New York City now?

Well, Chris (Zusi) is now out of the Judas Factor. But yeah, it's difficult... it's a pain in the ass getting home from practice. And Marc (Zev) has a show with Endeavor coming up next Friday and Floorpunch has a show also so I'm not sure what we're going to do yet but we work around it. We just try and deal with it, I'll take the train home from practice and we find ways to deal with everything, we're all pretty easy going.

What do you think of the hardcore scene now compared to when you put your demo out? When you put out your demo there were only a handful of bands that had the same style.

I think it's improved a lot, but on the other side of the coin, it sucks to see a lot of bands playing the same stuff. We didn't intend to have everyone playing the same kind of music. Originality is good, but I have to say it's better than when we started out with the demo, I've been having a lot more fun at shows now than I did then.

**FLOORPUNCH**

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I'd like to ask about the incident with Duncan Barlow, from By The Grace Of God, even though it happened over a half a year ago, people are still talking about it and some people seem to have mixed up stories and I wanted to know what really went on behind it all?

Do you think if you had the chance again you would do things differently?

Yeah, definitely... My emotions got the best of me. It's hard to say, I wouldn't want to have to do that again, it's not a smart thing to do.

Well... In the Punk Planet interview, this pretty much sums it all up, he says that even to this day, he doesn't even know if Floorpunch is homophobic. That's just my point, he ran around telling everyone how I was a nazi, I was homophobic and people should boycott my band and protest me, but he never even came up and talked to me. I thought the time for talking was over... shut him up, you know. I think my actions were a really stupid way to prove a point. I've been going to shows for a long time, I'm not a fighter, I've never been a fighter at shows. I just thought that kid had been getting away with talking for a little too long. If he were to come up to me and talk to me, it would have been a different story, but he decided to run his mouth to kids all over the country before he would have come and talked to me.



pic: Christina Dong

Do you guys have any plans for U.S. or European tours?

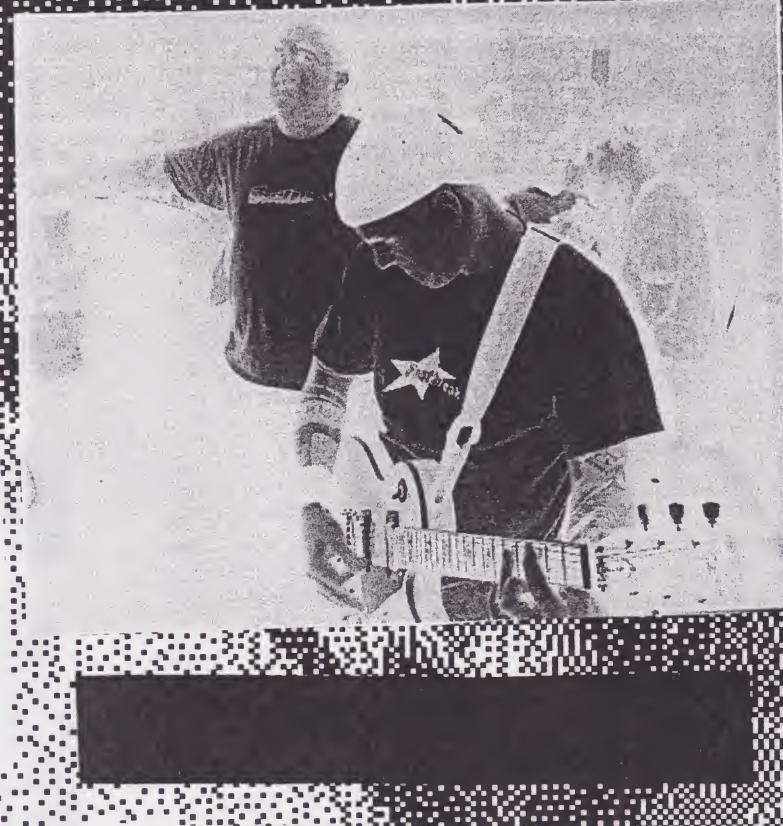
Yeah, in the fall I'm going to try to get two months off of work. We're going to try to go all over.

In the U.S.?

I think the U.S. and Europe.

I wanted to know how you felt about people spending \$80 on the "Division One" 7" on gold?

I think it's funny. What can you think? Honestly, we didn't make it like that. We pressed 88 of them, just for our friends and we had a list of who got what, Brett (Beach, In My Blood Records / Hardware Fanzine) who put it out has a list of who originally had what number. I know in Europe, kids were offering \$175 for it... and that's just crazy, especially for our record, it's crazy:



I read somewhere that someone said that if a member of FLOORPUNCH was to quit that you guys would just break up, rather than finding a replacement member, do you still feel the same way now?

That was pretty much the deal, if someone couldn't play a show, we would try and find a replacement, but if someone was to totally leave the band we would probably just call it quits.

That's about it... do you have anything else to add?

Umm. We're going to start playing shows a lot more in the fall, we haven't played Jersey in a while. When our record comes out we're gonna start playing some more shows.



# SHOW REVIEWS

March 6, 1998 at the New Providence American Hall, NJ  
Floorpunch, In My Eyes, Fastbreak

This is a show that I was excited about for the longest time, but never had a ride to until the day before the show, but I weaseled my way into a friend's car for the show. CC4J and Reach the Sky both played before we arrived but we were just in time for Fastbreak. I had only once seen Fastbreak before this show when they were the "Youth Pride" band and I wasn't expecting much but once the first note hit it was total energy. They tried out a lot of new stuff since their LP wasn't released and mixed it up with some old stuff made for a great set. Next up was In My Eyes. They started their set with that ESPN song thing... the one were you shout "hey" every now and then, you know.... well after that they went right into "This Is Our Time" which had everyone going off. They played through the demo adding new stuff, which most people already knew, into the mix. Definitely a great set, not the best I've seen, but a contender. Floorpunch was up next and I was pretty excited to see them because it had been a few months since the last time I watched them play. Their set tonight was great. They went through all of the old stuff from the demo and 7" and added a few new songs into the mix. They ended with a Uniform Choice cover in which Sweet Pete grabbed the mic for the last verse. By the time Floorpunch was done it was getting late so we had to roll on home missing OS101 and Vision... Oh well, maybe next time.

May 16, 1998 at the Princeton Arts Council, NJ  
Ensign, Speak 714, Rain On The Parade, Automatic

This was the second day of the self proclaimed "most fest". The night before was FSA, Fastbreak, FP, Ensign, and Breakdown. Then the day after was Automatic, Speak, Fastbreak, and TYF. Anyway, Call Attention was going to open this show but one of the members didn't show so Automatic had to take the stage first. This was their second show in the Tri-State area and the first I saw. Automatic played a really good set, but their was almost no crowd reaction. Automatic played everything off of the 7" plus some new stuff and ended with a Minor Threat cover of "Betray". ROTP hadn't played many shows lately because of their line-up change. This was their first show back and it went kind of rough. They didn't play anything new, just the old stuff. Not that bad of a set considering it was the first time playing out with the switch. I was pretty excited about seeing Speak play because of how good the LP was, but Speak's set was pretty sloppy and just boring. They are a great band on record, but since Joe D. Foster is out, they aren't all that great. Nothing memorable. The last band up for the night was Ensign. I'm not a huge fan of their stuff or even their live performance, but I must not lie, they impressed the hell out of me. Out of all of the times I've seen Ensign this was definitely the best. They got a great crowd response, lots of moshing and singing along. They played a pretty lengthy set running through most of the new material and some of the old stuff. All in all, a good show. I did expect more from Speak, but they just didn't do it for me.

July 13, 1998 at the Fenix in York, PA  
The Revelation Summer Tour

Better Than A Thousand, Battery, In My Eyes, Speak 714

It's just a little disappointing to drive for 3 hours to a show where there aren't even 50 kids at. The crowd was very thin tonight. Speak went on with only about 30 people tops. I don't think they were any better from the last time I'd seen them, but than again, I wasn't expecting much. IME went on next with a great set. No one was going off, but it was great so just watch them. Sweet Pete's stage presence is much better from when I'd last seen them. They ran through a lot of the new stuff since their LP was finally on sale. There was some guitar troubles in the beginning, but once it was ironed out, everything ran smoothly. A great set even though not a lot of people were there. I'm not too into Battery so I just sat in the back for the whole set trying to stay awake. I'd almost given up on this whole night but we decided to stick around for Better Than A Thousand despite it being 11:30 at night. I wasn't sure what to expect, I didn't know if the people there were going to go off or just stand around. Surprisingly, when the started playing, everyone was really getting into it. There was just enough people to open up a pit and you could pull off a stage dive on a sing along. They played mostly new stuff and the good old stuff. After only about 20 minutes of playing, the plug was pulled because of noise complaints. After several attempts of taunting them by saying "c'mon, you gotta take a stand!" they were gonna give in but they couldn't even get 5 more minutes so the show had to end.

July 15, 1998 at the Melody in New Brunswick, NJ  
The Revelation Summer Tour

Better Than A Thousand, Battery, In My Eyes, Speak 714

This show was my second and last show of seeing the Rev Tour since I had to work for most of the dates. We got to the Melody right as Speak was finishing up their last song. As you can tell from my other reviews of Speak, I can't see how I missed anything. Up now was the first of the 2 bands I had come to see, In My Eyes. They opened up with the "Mosh Song" which had a few people moving around. They went though most of the LP which everyone knew by now. They are one of the best live bands playing out now and tonight wasn't any different, a great set. Right after IME was done, Sweet Pete gave an introduction for 5 Star to come up and play one song but it didn't happen because of time constraints which left me and others disappointed. During Battery's set some friends and I did catch up with Straight Ed and the crew and we had a listen to their 2 song demo and it is some awesome stuff. Once Saves The Day is back from touring, 5 Star should be doing shows, so be on the lookout. Last band for the night was Better Than A Grand. The Melody was packed tonight and I think almost everyone was moving around for BTAT. They ran through a lot of the new stuff and the good songs off of the first lp ("give me just one!"). I think they ended with "Live Today", but it just wasn't enough. I don't think they would have been let off of the stage if they didn't play "Take A Stand" and they knew it. So they did it and the place was crazy, a couple hundred kids all trying to get the mic. Something about their set, and the whole show for that matter, left me feeling very high on energy. I hadn't felt that way after a show in a while and it was such a refreshing feeling. Oh, and one kind word to Chris Ross and the guys at the Melody for keeping the door price at \$5.



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